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Viewing cable 09ROME4, ITALY TO FOLLOW EU POSITION ON AID TO NICARAGUA

If you are new to these pages, please read an introduction on the [structure of a cable](#) as well as how to [discuss them](#) with others. See also the [FAQs](#)

Understanding cables

Every cable message consists of three parts:

- The top box shows each cables unique reference number, when and by whom it originally was sent, and what its initial classification was.
- The middle box contains the header information that is associated with the cable. It includes information about the receiver(s) as well as a general subject.
- The bottom box presents the body of the cable. The opening can contain a more specific subject, references to other cables ([browse by origin](#) to find them) or additional comment. This is followed by the main contents of the cable: a summary, a collection of specific topics and a comment section.

To understand the justification used for the classification of each cable, please use this [WikiSource](#) article as reference.

Discussing cables

If you find meaningful or important information in a cable, please link directly to its unique reference number. Linking to a specific paragraph in the body of a cable is also possible by copying the appropriate link (to be found at the paragraph symbol). Please mark messages for social networking services like Twitter with the hash tags **#cablegate** and a hash containing the reference ID e.g. **#09ROME4**.

Reference ID	Created	Released	Classification	Origin
09ROME4	2009-01-02 16:45	2011-08-30 01:44	CONFIDENTIAL	Embassy Rome

Appears in these articles:

<http://www.nacion.com/2011-05-30/Mundo/NotasSecundarias/Mundo2758456.aspx>
<http://www.nacion.com/2011-05-30/Mundo/NotasSecundarias/Mundo2758467.aspx>
<http://www.nacion.com/2011-05-30/Mundo/NotasSecundarias/Mundo2758468.aspx>
<http://www.nacion.com/2011-05-30/Mundo/NotasSecundarias/Mundo2758464.aspx>
<http://www.confidencial.com.ni/articulo/4103/la-embusa-y-el-gabinete-de-ortega>
<http://www.confidencial.com.ni/articulo/4104/d-rsquo-escoto-en-onu-ldquo-un-desafio-de-ortega-a-ee-uu-rdquo>
<http://www.confidencial.com.ni/articulo/4102/estrada-y-la-ldquo-doble-cara-rdquo-ante-ee-uu>
<http://www.confidencial.com.ni/articulo/3966/la-ldquo-injerencia-rdquo-de-ee-uu-en-el-2006>
<http://www.nacion.com/2011-05-23/Mundo/Relacionados/Mundo2758764.aspx>
<http://www.nacion.com/2011-05-23/Mundo/NotaPrincipal/Mundo2758753.aspx>
<http://www.confidencial.com.ni/articulo/4041/millones-de-dolares-sin-control-y-a-discrecion>
<http://www.confidencial.com.ni/articulo/4040/la-ldquo-injerencia-rdquo-de-venezuela-en-2006>
<http://www.confidencial.com.ni/articulo/4047/rodrigo-barreto-enviado-de-ldquo-vacaciones-rdquo>
<http://www.nacion.com/2011-05-16/Mundo/NotasSecundarias/Mundo2757239.aspx>
<http://www.nacion.com/2011-05-16/Mundo/NotaPrincipal/Mundo2746658.aspx>
<http://www.nacion.com/2011-05-16/Mundo/Relacionados/Mundo2757244.aspx>
<http://www.nacion.com/2011-05-16/Mundo/Relacionados/Mundo2746673.aspx>
<http://www.confidencial.com.ni/articulo/3991/dra-yadira-centeno-desmiente-cable-diplomatico-eeuu>
<http://www.confidencial.com.ni/articulo/3968/pellas-pronostico-a-eeuu-victoria-de-ortega-en-2006>
<http://www.confidencial.com.ni/articulo/3967/barreto-era-ldquo-fuente-confiable-rdquo-para-eeuu>

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PP RUEHAG RUEHROV RUEHSR
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ZNY CCCCC ZZH
P 021645Z JAN 09
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1405
INFO RUCNMEM/EU MEMBER STATES COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUEHMU/AMEMBASSY MANAGUA PRIORITY 0263
RUEHTG/AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA PRIORITY 0236
RUEHRN/USMISSION UN ROME PRIORITY 0194
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS PRIORITY 4726

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 000004

SIPDIS

WHA/CEN: KRAAIMOORE

E.O. 12958: DECL: 01/01/2019

TAGS: [EAID](#) [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [NU](#)

SUBJECT: ITALY TO FOLLOW EU POSITION ON AID TO NICARAGUA

REF: A. STATE 132044

[1](#)B. ROME 1219

Classified By: Acting Deputy Chief of Mission Barbara A. Leaf
for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

[1](#)1. (C) Summary: Econoff and Poloff delivered ref A demarche on suspension of aid to Nicaragua. Italy will seek a common EU position in responding to the flawed 9 November elections. Italy will likely not suspend its sanitation project run through the Managua municipal government, but it will probably refrain from funding new projects through the Government of Nicaragua (GON). End Summary.

[1](#)2. (C) On 30 December Econoff and Poloff presented to Michele Pala, MFA Office Director for Central America, reftel A demarche concerning suspension of aid channeled through the Nicaraguan government following the flawed 9 November municipal elections. "We will move in coordination with our European colleagues, and there are no major differences on this issue," said Pala. Pala noted that Italy had signed the November 18th Donors' Group letter and supported the European Commission's December 10 statement condemning Managua's behavior prior to and during the election. He did not commit to the suspension of existing bi-lateral aid, saying, "It's too early to close the door...we need dialogue." However, he also said Italy was unlikely to commence new projects with the Nicaraguan government given the current political climate.

[1](#)3. (C) Pala noted that bi-lateral Italian aid to Nicaragua remains small; indeed, Italy lacks a local office and manages programs from Honduras. On 22 December Econoff met with Leonardo Costa, office director for the Americas in the Development Cooperation bureau of the MFA, and Giovanna Barille, a technical expert on Italian aid to Latin America, to discuss the mechanics of Italian aid to Nicaragua. According to Costa and Barille, Italy's main projects are an agricultural program in northwest Nicaragua and a sanitation project run through the municipal government of Managua. The former is funded by 5m euros in soft loans and a 2.5m euro grant, while the latter is midway through a four year project, valued at 3.7m euros. A small amount of money is channeled through UNICEF and NGOs. Italy does not provide budgetary support to the GON, according to Costa and Pala. Costa said it could be technically difficult to suspend ongoing projects because many are based on bi-lateral negotiated agreements that cannot be cancelled quickly.

[1](#)4. (C) Pala said relations between Managua and the EU remained tense. In his view, the Government of Nicaragua sees developed countries as owing it assistance, and it resents conditions imposed by donors. In the wake of the EC decision to suspend \$32m in budget support for 2009, Pala said that Italian diplomat Francesca Mosca, EC Head of

Delegation for Central America, resident in Managua, was subject to "brutal insults" by the GON. The Nicaraguan Ambassador to the EU was summoned in protest, according to Pala.

15. (C) Comment: We previously reported impending cuts of 60% in Italy's foreign assistance for 2009 (ref B). Given the lower priority which Italy has traditionally accorded Latin America for foreign assistance, it is unlikely Italy would have initiated new projects in Nicaragua regardless of the conduct of the elections. Based on the comments of Pala, Costa and Barille, Italy will follow the EU common position on aid disbursed through GON channels, but will likely not go further. End Comment.
SPOGLI